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Dear Honorable Members of the Joint Committee on Planning and Development:

My name is Lisa Borter, I am a Connecticut resident and I strongly urge you to support HR 5170 An Act Concerning the Tethering and Sheltering of Dogs.

This legislation is long overdue in Connecticut. Connecticut suffers from extremely harsh winters – this year we had record breaking cold – and sweltering summers. Many states around us already have these protections in place for animals. Every week in various community/neighborhood watch online groups I have read about alarming situations where pets are being tethered outside in extreme cold and concerned citizens urging pet owners to treat the animal humanely but to no avail. Currently it does not seem as though Animal Control agencies have the authority to do anything either and it is unacceptable. The bill is straightforward, humane and fair. It seeks to protect dogs during extreme weather conditions before they show visible signs of suffering and distress when it's evident the weather poses a threat to the dog's welfare.

Significantly, it gives Animal Control Officers clear direction and the necessary tools to help before the situation becomes life-threatening. The bill passed the House overwhelmingly in 2018; now we need to finish what was begun six years ago.

Thank you for your consideration and I urge the Committee to pass HR 5170.

Best,

Lisa Levaggi Borter

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